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## **V CORPS' 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION TESTS EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITIES OF IRAQ COORDINATION CENTERS**

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**TIKRIT, Iraq** – Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of V Corps' 1st Infantry Division and Iraqi officials met October 27 at the Provincial Joint Coordination Center here to assess a recent three-day exercise that tested the emergency response capabilities of local services.

The Salah Ad Din Province JCC Readiness Exercise was the brainchild of Capt. Jose H. Ocasio, the Iraqi Security Forces coordinator for the 2nd BCT. Ocasio said the local JCCs throughout Salah Ad Din as well as the provincial one headquartered in Tikrit serve 1.4 million Iraqis. A JCC is located in every major city of the province, including Tikrit, Bayji, Samarra, Balad, Ad Dujayl, Ad Dawr, Tuz and Ad Duluyiah. A JCC is currently under construction in Ash Sharqat.

The three-day exercise had several objectives. While it measured the local and provincial JCCs' communications and reaction capabilities, it also showed what areas needed improvement. JCC staff were trained on procedures and given a common understanding of them.

"We wanted to test the communication links and test every JCC staff to see how they would react," Ocasio said.

Staffs at the JCCs throughout the province were given 12 crisis scenarios to handle during a course of 72 hours, from terrorists firing on a peaceful demonstration to a report of a car bomb.

"We needed to know where they were in their capabilities," Ocasio said.

He pointed out that the various JCCs across the province "range in different capabilities at this time."

